

INDIANA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (IOSHA)

INTRODUCTION

This document provides general information about the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA).

This information is provided for educational purposes only. The Oral Health Program (OHP) at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) cannot provide legal opinions on the interpretation of guidelines, laws, and rules and regulations. Dental professionals are responsible for understanding and applying these as they pertain to the practice of dentistry in Indiana.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The United States Department of Labor contains the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The mission of OSHA is to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women by setting and enforcing standards and by providing training, outreach, education, and assistance. OSHA encourages states to develop and operate their own job safety and health programs.

Indiana is one of several states operating a complete state plan, which is administered by IOSHA in the Indiana Department of Labor. IOSHA is dedicated to ensuring Hoosier workplace safety and health. These standards apply to all places of employment in Indiana.

NOTE: Generally, the standards established by IOSHA are the same as those established by OSHA.

Some of these standards apply to bloodborne pathogens. Please refer to Regulations (Standards – 29 CFR), Part 1910 Occupational Safety and Health Standards, 1910 Subpart Z – Toxic and Hazardous Substances, 1910.1030 – Blood borne pathogens.

OSHA

- requires employers to provide annual training in bloodborne pathogens to its employees
 - on working time, and
 - at no cost to the employee;
- requires employers to provide personal protective equipment to its employees
 - at no cost, and
 - maintain protective garments at no cost to the employee;
- accepts complaints from employees
 - which are written,
 - which are confidential, and
 - which do not allow the employer to retaliate against or terminate an employee for filing a complaint;
- may make unannounced on-site visits; and
- can issue monetary fines for non-compliance.

NOTE: Many of the guidelines provided by the CDC for infection control are incorporated into the bloodborne pathogens standards established by OSHA and used by IOSHA.

BIOLOGICAL INDICATORS

- Administrative code in Indiana requires the use of biological indicators to monitor heat sterilizers.
- The CDC recommends the use of biological indicators to monitor heat sterilizers.
- The OSHA does not mention the use of biological indicators to monitor heat sterilizers; nevertheless, biological indicators are still required to monitor heat sterilizers in Indiana under Indiana Administrative Code.

COMPLAINTS

In Indiana, complaints by employees alleging violations of OSHA standards as they pertain to the health and safety of employees should be submitted to the IOSHA section of the Indiana Department of Labor. The OHP at the ISDH does not accept complaints of this nature and will refer such complaints to IOSHA.